

I understand there will be a hearing this Wednesday, March 12, 2014, about the Common Core and, I believe, the current teacher evaluation system. I have been a teacher for 44 years in a Fairfield County town.

Reasons to support abandonment of Common Core:

1. It is common. It does not reflect regional or town wide differences and needs. It is a one-size fits all approach. It becomes a national curriculum spearheaded by non-educators who have vested interest in the \$ to be made from the new corporate business- education.
2. It does not address needs of individual communities. It is an blanket fix for a dynamic ever changing product and target- children and their families.
3. It is not founded on research about the way children learn and their psychological readiness for certain kinds of learning- especially at a young age. Monkeys can be taught to recognize words. They don't know how to apply the skills to situations. Kindergarteners have no need to read. They need language, social skills, background knowledge--- just ask child researchers, not heads of state and corporate leaders and commissioners of education who have NEVER set foot in the classroom.
4. Follow the money.
 - a. If all the money going into the program were spent in an educationally sound manner to develop approaches suitable for each needy school and child, we would see progress.
 - b. If the above were implemented, corporate entities would NOT make money and big business and politicos could not influence each other.

Reasons for abandoning SBAC or any testing that is similar

1. Do you realize the depth of information government and corporate entities will be collecting over the years about all of our children and your children,- their opinions and abilities. This includes our special ed students and regular ed students. Just WHO will use this information, WHEN, and WHY? Don't think for a moment that this can't be accessed by big business, government agencies, and employers if the price was right or if the information was needed.
2. Districts and whoever the test coordinators are are interpreting the rules to administer the test which are set by the state their own way, keeping information from students, parents, and teachers unless they do their own research at the state sites, hoping to work through the maze of endless testing documentation.
3. The state keeps changing its mind about various aspects of the test.
4. The demands of the test in terms of content are not age appropriate.
5. The format of the test is uncomfortable, confusing, and daunting.
6. The computer commands are confusing.
7. Having to sit at the computer for an inordinate amount of time is preposterous.
8. The training videos are the same for each grade level.
9. The information on line is scattered.
10. Follow the money!

Reasons for abandoning the new teacher evaluation system:

1. Cumbersome
2. Takes too much time from the rigors of teaching in the name of gathering data
3. Wastes administrators time
4. Has become abusive depending on what the personality and psychological make- up of the administrator is and what his/her future goals are and what the hidden agenda is.

5. At least in my town, the evaluation and observation system was working and has been revised every now again to become more effective.

Closing thoughts:

You like to think this is democracy, don't you. Look up its definition and history.

Legislators- Be Careful - understand just how much big government and corporate America is taking over our lives, limiting our choices, and collecting too much information on us all:

1. Through insurance
2. Through education
3. And, you think, local and state government is here to stay? Think again—wait until a case is built for having just a central government!

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